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Docket No.: UPVG0005-101
PATENT

Serial Number: 10/734,024
Filed: December 11, 2003

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 16 and 21, cancel claims 19, 24 and 28, and add new claims 29-34 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting proliferation of cells which comprises the step steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof; and
contacting cells with an amount of said Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof effective to inhibit cell proliferation, ~~;-or-introducing-into-cells-a-nucleic-acid-molecule-that-comprises-a-nucleotide-sequence-that-encodes-vpr-protein-or-a-functional-fragment-whereby-said-nucleotide-sequence-is-expressed-by-said-cells.~~

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are differentiated.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are undifferentiated.

4 (Currently Amended). A method of preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the step steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof; and
contacting a lymphocyte cell with an amount of said Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof effective to prevent activation, ~~;-or-introducing-into-cells-a-nucleic-acid-molecule-that-comprises-a-nucleotide-sequence-that-encodes-vpr-protein-or-a-functional-fragment-whereby-said-nucleotide-sequence-is-expressed-by-said-cells.~~

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5 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are T cells.

6-13 (Canceled).

14 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are B cells.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are monocytes.

16 (Currently Amended). ~~A~~ The method of ~~claim 1~~ inhibiting proliferation of cells which comprises the ~~step~~ steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and
contacting cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to inhibit cell proliferation.

17 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 16 wherein said cells are T cells.

18 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 16 wherein said cells are B cells.

19 (Canceled).

20 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 which comprises the step of: contacting cells with a functional fragment of Vpr protein.

21 (Currently Amended). ~~A~~ The method of ~~claim 4~~ preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the ~~step~~ steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and

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contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to prevent activation.

22 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

23 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

24 (Canceled).

25 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 4 which comprises the step of: contacting lymphocyte cells with a functional fragment of Vpr protein.

26 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

27 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 25 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

28 (Canceled).

29 (New). A method of inhibiting lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:
obtaining isolated Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof; and
contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein or a functional fragment thereof effective to inhibit activation;
wherein cytokine production and secretion by immunoglobulin activation of lymphocyte cells is inhibited.

30 (New). The method of claim 29 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

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31 (New). The method of claim 29 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

32 (New). A method of inhibiting lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and

contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to
inhibit activation;

wherein cytokine production and secretion by immunoglobulin activation of
lymphocyte cells is inhibited.

33 (New). The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

~~34 (New). The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.~~